

Minutes
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, March 27, 2014

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:01 pm by Tom Brandt, Vice Chairperson, in the Sierra Room at the Reedley Community Center, 100 N. East Avenue, Reedley, CA 93654.

1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
 - A. Commissioners Present: Tom Brandt, Vice Chairperson; Kelly deJarnette; Stephen Penner; Traci Tucker.
 - B. Commissioners Absent: Excused - Pamela Melville.
 - C. Youth Representatives: Present – Alexa Becerra Excused – Jennifer Ito.
 - D. Staff Present: Joel Glick, Community Services Director; Denise Phariss, Administrative Assistant.
 - E. Others Present: None.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Penner, seconded by Commissioner deJarnette, that the minutes of January 16, 2014 be approved. The motion carried.
3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION – None.
4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Joel Glick handed out information about parks from the Reedley City-Wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and fliers on current registrations and upcoming activities in the Community Services Department.
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. **Old Pool Property Future Use** – Commissioner deJarnette asked that this item be placed on the agenda to start talking about options for this property. She asked for ideas from the Commission without thought to cost. Here are some ideas that came from the discussion:
 - Basketball Courts – Citizens Park basketball courts are always in use. They are easy to maintain. Need lights.
 - Skate Park – A permanent, cement facility.
 - Community Garden
 - Splash Park – Glick explained that these are proving difficult to maintain. With recirculated water, frequent mandatory testing is required; with the water shortage, the option of using fresh water isn't feasible. Would need a restroom facility.
 - Walking Trail – Regardless of what's in the middle of the park, a walking/jogging trail, similar to Citizens, could be incorporated. Lighting would be important to keep it safe.
 - Playground equipment for small children – There aren't many age-appropriate play structures for small children.
 - Dog Park – Wouldn't take much upkeep. May not be a large enough area for an adequate dog park. There was talk some years ago about putting in a dog park – both the ponding basin area at Citizens Park and the old shooting range at Cricket Hollow Park were looked at.
 - Picnic areas

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- Create something similar to the corner area of Citizens Park – basketball courts, picnic tables, play structure, etc.
- Bus parking for the Korean Memorial – They are currently parking in the alley. That could remain the same to keep the park as big as possible.

Since it would be considered a neighborhood park, no restroom facility would be included. Fencing around the facility was discussed. Although it could be used to control use of the park, it can also be a safety issue. The fence around the skate park in Mueller Park has been used to trap and intimidate other participants in the skate park. Although, it was noted that fencing to keep basketballs off of Reed Avenue would be important.

The noise level of various activities were discussed. Which would be noisier for the neighborhood – skate park, basketball, or the previous pool use. Hours of operation would definitely play into the picture.

Glick asked the Commission how they felt about the idea of closing off J Street so the little triangular landscaped area could be incorporated into the park, thus enlarging it considerably.

The Commission wondered if there was any value in keeping the existing building and if not, what would be the cost to demo.

Glick suggested taking a tour of some of the parks in Visalia. He will show the Commission the various types of parks – Neighborhood, Community, and Regional Parks. They also have a couple of dog parks that can be looked at. Glick suggested bringing this item back at the next Commission meeting, after touring the Visalia parks. Then a recommendation can be sent to City Council and ultimately put on a future project list.

6. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

A. **Alexa Becerra**

- 1) Asked if the Trail was being extended to the Sports Park. She has seen construction on Buttonwillow and wondered. Glick explained that the ditch was being undergrounded and a wide sidewalk being installed. He elaborated that this very wide sidewalk will be helpful for our Fiesta Walk/Run. Runners will be able to stay on the sidewalk, thus eliminating the need for traffic control on Buttonwillow.
- 2) Asked for a copy of the Youth Representative flier and application. Sarah Reid will be meeting with the current Youth Reps about recruitment for the 2014-15 Reps. Alexa will start recruiting.

7. STAFF REPORTS

A. **Joel Glick**

- 1) Attended the last Parks and Recreation Foundation meeting to discuss the Sports Park. Two ideas are being discussed to help raise funds to start developing it – Sales tax initiative and a property tax assessment.
- 2) The Mueller Park grant application for a walking trail, lighting, barbecues, picnic tables, park benches and restroom rehab is due on April 1, 2014. Staff has been working with California Consulting to finalize this grant application. It appears we have a very strong

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application.

- 3) A City Council workshop was held recently to discuss proposed projects and current and future budget. Items discussed included the BMX track at the airport (staff is working with Airtime BMX to keep them there); Mueller Park grant, Splash pad at Mueller Park, and what to do with the old pool property.
- 4) Staff is currently recruiting for a full time Senior Citizen Coordinator and part time Building Maintenance Worker. Both positions have been advertised in the Reedley Exponent and the Community Services Facebook page. The Senior Citizen Coordinator position will be in the Fresno Bee on Sunday. Carol Martens is retiring probably mid-April. She has done an incredible job in the 13 years she has worked with the Reedley seniors.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. **Commissioner Tucker** – Wondered what the green spaces are for in the Lennar subdivision next to South Frankwood Avenue. Future development? And who is maintaining them? There are green spaces on the end caps of each road by the ponding basin. What are the plans for these? Apartments?
- B. **Commissioner Penner**
 - 1) With the new pool at the high school, is the city working on a cooperative agreement? Glick indicated that staff will be meeting with a KCUSD representative next week to find out the anticipated city's fees and responsibilities.
 - 2) When the developer was planning the Barsoom property subdivision, a green space/trail along the river was planned. Since they will not be proceeding with that development, he wondered if the green space/trail was still being considered. Glick assured him that it is still important to the City to have the property along the river as a green space and trail.
 - 3) At the last Foundation meeting that Glick attended, they had representatives from soccer, Little League, and Softball in attendance to discuss their needs for the Sports Park. There seems to be a lot of need for soccer fields and softball fields. Little League seems to be happy at Camacho Park. This information gave the Foundation a lot to think about. The focus had been on the 4-Plex, but it may shift to flat green space that would be cheaper and easier to maintain. The next Parks and Recreation Foundation meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on April 21, 2014 at Thiele Technologies on Manning Avenue. Everyone was encouraged to attend to give input.
 - 4) Wondered if there is a need for indoor soccer fields. He was in Oregon recently where several indoor soccer fields are very active. Players pay an entry fee. Although Oregon has a different climate than here, he wondered if there might be a need for an indoor facility – maybe one of the old packinghouses or warehouses could be converted. Glick indicated that an individual is trying to set something up in the Grant School gym.

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9. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Phariss, Administrative Assistant

Tom Brandt, Vice Chairperson

Joel Glick, Community Services Director

***Next meeting: Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to further discuss pool property
and review Community Recreation Grants.***